GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:504
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2007
IMPORT OF APPLES AND FRUITS
Barman Shri Hiten

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether permission of import of apples and other fruits under Open General Licence Scheme is adversely affecting fruit-growers in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey or study has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for promoting export of domestic apples and other fruits ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has suggested that the import of apples and other fruits under the Open General Licence has increased the availability of such fruits in the country, due to which the fruit produced in the country are not getting competitive/good price.

(c) Department of Commerce has not conducted any study in this regard.

(d) To promote export of apples and fruits, APEDA (Agricultural & Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority) takes a number of measures including participation in fairs, promotional campaigns, setting up and up gradation of laboratories, setting up of centers for perishable cargo, pack houses and other infrastructural facilities, implementation of residue monitoring plans and market access initiatives. Besides that Agri Export Zones have been set up for apples and for other fruits. APEDA has been extending financial assistance to exporters under its schemes for financial assistance for Infrastructure Development, Market Development, Quality Development, Research & Development and Transport assistance. A Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana also exists to promote export of agriculture products in which a duty credit scrip equivalent to 3.5 - 5% of FOB value of exports is granted.